All section references are to the Business and Professions Code unless otherwise indicated.

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STATUTORY PROVISIONS

- 4. Section 2875 of the Business and Professions Code (Code) provides, in pertinent part, that the Board may discipline the holder of a vocational nurse license for any reason provided in Article 3 (commencing with section 2875) of the Vocational Nursing Practice Act.
- 5. Section 118(b) of the Code provides, in pertinent part, that the expiration of a license shall not deprive the Bureau jurisdiction to proceed with a disciplinary action during the period within which the license may be renewed, restored, reissued or reinstated. Under section 2892.1 of the Code, the Bureau may renew an expired license at any time within four years after the expiration.
 - 6. Section 2878 of the Code states:

"The Board may suspend or revoke a license issued under this chapter [the Vocational Nursing Practice Act (Bus. & Prof. Code, 2840, et seq.)] for any of the following:

- "(a) Unprofessional conduct, which includes, but is not limited to, the following:
- (1) Incompetence, or gross negligence in carrying out usual nursing functions."
- 7. Section 125.3 of the Code provides, in pertinent part, that the Board may request the administrative law judge to direct a licentiate found to have committed a violation or violations of the licensing act to pay a sum not to exceed the reasonable costs of the investigation and enforcement of the case.

FIRST CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

(Gross Negligence)

8. Respondent is subject to disciplinary action under Code section 2878, subdivision (a), on the grounds of unprofessional conduct, as defined in section 2878, subdivision (a)(1), of the Code, in that on or about April 20, 2008, while employed by Windsor Gardens of Long Beach (Windsor Gardens), in Long Beach, California, as a licensed vocational nurse, Respondent was grossly negligent in the following respects:

Patient 1

- 9. On or about October 22, 2007, Patient D.K., a 72 year old female, was admitted as a residential patient to Windsor Gardens with diagnoses of bipolar disorder, osteoarthritis, difficulty in walking, generalized muscle weakness, schizoaffective disorder, dementia, COPD, and hypertension.
- 10. Respondent was employed by Windsor Gardens on April 6, 2002 until he was terminated on or about May 2, 2008.
- 11. On or about April 20, 2008, patient DK fell while walking from the back patio room to her room. A Certified Nurse's Assistant (CNA) was walking with the patient at the time that she fell. The CNA immediately called a nurse to assess the patient. In response to the call, Respondent assessed the patient which included full range of motion assessment of all extremities without apparent difficulty and/or pain to the patient. Respondent assisted the patient to her feet and determined that the patient's condition was unchanged because she could walk independently back to her room. Respondent failed to notify a physician or family of the patient's fall. Respondent also failed to document the fall or follow facility policy and procedure on resident change of condition. Respondent further failed to complete an incident report until April 30, 2008.
- 12. On or about April 21, 2008, another CNA noted that although patient D.K. could walk, she was slower than usual and unsteady. The CNA notified a licensed nurse of the change of status. The charge nurse notified a physician of the patient's change of condition. Patient D.K. was sent to an acute care hospital that same day for evaluation and treatment and was diagnosed with a fracture of the left femur.

SECOND CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

(Incompetence)

13. Respondent is subject to disciplinary action under Code section 2878, subdivision (a), on the grounds of unprofessional conduct, as defined in section 2878, subdivision (a)(1), of the Code, in that on April 20, 2008, while practicing as a licensed vocational nurse, Respondent was incompetent as set forth above in paragraphs 9-12.

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THIRD CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

(Failed to Adhere to Standards of Practice)

14. Respondent is subject to disciplinary action under Code section 2878, subdivision (a), and California Code of Regulations, title 16, section 2518.6, subdivision (c), on the grounds of unprofessional conduct, in that Respondent failed to comply with California Code of Regulations, title 16, section 2518.6, subdivision (b)(1), on April 20, 2008, because he failed to adhere to ethical or behavioral standards as set forth above in paragraph 9-12.

PRAYER

WHEREFORE, Complainant requests that a hearing be held on the matters herein alleged, and that following the hearing, the Board of Vocational Nursing and Psychiatric Technicians issue a decision:

- 1. Revoking or suspending Vocational Nurse License Number VN 154846, issued to Moises Abaquita Abayata;
- 2. Ordering Moises Abaquita Abayata to pay the Board of Vocational Nursing and Psychiatric Technicians the reasonable costs of the investigation and enforcement of this case, pursuant to Business and Professions Code section 125.3;
 - Taking such other and further action as deemed necessary and proper. 3.

DATED: May 24, 2011

TERESA BELLO-JONES, J.Ø., M.Ś.N., R.N.

Executive Officer

Board of Vocational Nursing and Psychiatric Technicians

Department of Consumer Affairs

State of California Complainant

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